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the Colinian

Copiah-Lincoln Community College

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Back The Pack

College Plans
Athletic Facilities
Upgrades

the Colinian

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Allen Kent ('84), *Vice President*
Megan Jones ('93), *Secretary*

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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or students.

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COPIAH-LINCOLN
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Back The Pack

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ON THE COVER: College announces plans for athletic facilities upgrades

The Colinian is printed as a service through the Offices of Public Information and Alumni Relations and is mailed to members and friends of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Alumni Association.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191, 601.643.8313.

Graphic design by Jimmie Cain.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Jane G. Hulon

As I wrap up my first six months as president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, I am convinced on a daily basis just how special this institution really is. Co-Lin serves the greatest of students with the greatest of employees. We are proud of the recent institutional recognition received due to the many successes of our students and our dedicated faculty and staff.

As we continue to celebrate Co-Lin's 90th birthday, we strive to provide the best instructional and athletic programs, using the best equipment, led by the best faculty and staff, and conducted in the best of facilities. In maintaining this level of excellence, plans are being developed and implemented to address a variety of needs in the areas of programs, equipment, and facilities.

The new instructional programs offered this fall have generated much interest and added to the college's enrollment. The plans for the new instructional facilities at the Simpson County Center and the Natchez Campus are progressing nicely. The newly-renovated cafeteria on the Wesson Campus is quite popular and serves delicious food with healthy options. In addition, we eagerly await the completion of Nettles Hall, our new women's honors residence hall and plan to hold a dedication ceremony in May.

Much work has been done with the coaches of Co-Lin's athletic teams to develop a comprehensive plan to address facilities needs. Along with this plan, the college launched a capital campaign, Back The Pack, to raise funds to support the efforts toward facility upgrades. It has been encouraging to begin to work with the many corporate sponsors and individual supporters who have expressed interest in contributing to the Back The Pack Campaign.

It is an honor to lead such an awesome institution during this exciting period in the college's history. The future of Co-Lin is extremely bright, and Co-Lin truly is "The Place to Be."

Jane G. Hulon

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Angela Furr

Happy New Year, Co-Lin Alumni and Friends!

I hope your 2019 is off to a great start. After a busy fall filled with activities and events, it was nice to relax and recharge during the holidays. As the new semester kicks off, we are moving forward with our Back The Pack athletic capital campaign.

Back The Pack is a comprehensive multi-year, multi-sport plan to improve our athletic facilities at Co-Lin. If you have visited campus recently, you may have seen the improvements made to our instructional areas, new dormitories, the pedestrian corridor, new landscaping, and more. We are so proud of all that has been done to improve Co-Lin in recent years, and it's time for our athletic facilities to receive a facelift. To read more about the plans for athletic upgrades, check out the story on page 14. I encourage you to consider supporting this project, whether it is by making a monetary donation or by helping us to spread the word on social media and in our surrounding communities. Alumni support is crucial to our success at Co-Lin.

Also in the issue, you'll see photos and news about our Homecoming activities and honorees. Homecoming 2018 was a fantastic weekend, and we loved seeing many of you back on campus. The Alumni Association elected new officers to serve for the next two years, and we are all excited about our new leadership in Debbie Lea, Bobo Douglas, and Mark Hamilton. If you are interested in joining the Alumni Association, you can find information on page 17, or online at www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation. There is so much to be proud of as Co-Lin alumni, and we would love for you to be involved.

Thank you for your continued support of Co-Lin. Together, we can build upon the solid foundation created by those who came before us, and ensure a brighter future for our students as we Back the Pack!

Angela Furr
Class of 2002

FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT | *Deborah Lea*

I am truly excited and honored to serve as president of the Co-Lin Alumni Association! Like many of us who attended or graduated from Co-Lin, I have nothing but the fondest memories of my time as a student during the fall of 1975 and spring of 1976. Although I only attended for one year, I always wanted to be a graduate of Co-Lin. With the reverse transfer policy, I was able to bring all my college work back to Co-Lin for evaluation enabling me to obtain a conferred degree (something I believe many of us could take advantage of as well).

Like many of the stories we hear every year, I met the love of my life at Co-Lin. He, too, is a reverse transfer graduate and employed with Co-Lin. Having moved back home to Lawrence County, after an extended absence and becoming far more familiar with Co-Lin, I can attest to how dynamic the college is across all campuses, degree tracks, and student opportunities. We should all become more aware, more involved, and more proud of our beloved institution.

As president of the Co-Lin Alumni Association, I hope to broaden the awareness, involvement, and pride of Co-Lin, the student body, and the faculty and staff who make it all possible. Therefore, it is important to keep our alumni and friends of the college connected to the Alumni Association. There are many ways to do so. You can follow the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/CoLinAlumni, the Co-Lin webpage: http://www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation, Twitter: @CoLinAlumni, or by a simple phone call to the alumni office at 601.643.8313.

We all have great reason to be proud of Co-Lin and its traditions. I invite all alumni to increase your participation and support by joining the alumni association, and by sending your feedback and suggestions. Your input is very important to help us carry forward and to help engage others.

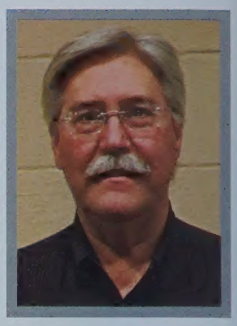
I look forward to the coming year and the many connections to be made. #BackThePack

Sincerely,
Deborah Lea
Class of '76

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Lea

Douglas



Hamilton

Deborah Lea ('76) of Monticello was elected to serve as president of the Alumni Association. Joining her as vice-president is Bobo Douglas ('03) of Wesson, and Mark Hamilton ('79) of Wesson as secretary.

Lea holds associate's degrees from Co-Lin and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. She is retired from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service with 25 years of service and currently serves as director of administration for the town of Monticello. She is married to her college sweetheart, Timothy Lea, and they have a son, Matthew and a granddaughter, Emma.

Douglas received a bachelor's degree in human performance & recreation from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree in education from Alcorn State University. He has completed additional study at Mississippi State University. He is a teacher and coaches soccer and golf at Wesson High School. He has one daughter, Tinley.

Hamilton graduated from Mississippi College with a bachelor's degree in church music performance and a master's degree in music performance. He also received a master's degree in religious education from New Orleans Theological Seminary. For more than 40 years Hamilton has been a music minister throughout Mississippi and is currently serving at Tangipahoa Baptist Church. He is also a social studies teacher at Provine High School. Hamilton and his wife Elizabeth have four children, Cherish, Adam, Joshua, and Laci, and two grandchildren, Cameron and Kelly Grace.

ATHLETIC ALUMNI CHAPTER

J. Ronny Smith ('66) has been elected as president of the Athletic Alumni Chapter. He will be joined by Allen Kent ('84) as vice-president and Megan Jones ('93) as secretary.

All former Co-Lin athletes and coaches are considered members of the athletic alumni association. The group meets twice annually and selects members for the college Sports Hall of Fame.

BAND/COLETTE ALUMNI CHAPTER

Pam Maddox Roberts ('74) will continue to serve as president of the Band and Colette Alumni Chapter. Also continuing are Becky Yarbrough ('67) as vice-president and Angela Smith ('94) as secretary.

Any band member, Colette, or auxiliary band member is invited to join the chapter. The group meets quarterly and participates in fundraisers and functions related to the Co-Lin band.

Members of the Band & Colette Alumni Chapter passed out cookies and tea before the Homecoming game outside Stone Stadium.

For more information on becoming involved with either of these groups or to help create a new alumni chapter, contact the alumni office at 601.643.8313.

Mr. John W. Pace of Hattiesburg and Mrs. Barbara Welch Fuller of Mendenhall were honored as Alumni of the Year at Homecoming on Oct. 27. The selection is made by a committee of alumni from throughout Co-Lin's district after accepting nominations from the alumni body.

Alumni of the Year

John W. Pace

Pace is a 1986 graduate of Co-Lin where he received an associate's degree. While at Co-Lin, Pace was a member of the band and was instrumental in changing the name of the Co-Lin Show Band to the Copiah-Lincoln Blue Wave. He attended the University of Southern Mississippi and received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and paralegal studies, and received a master's degree in counseling from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He began his career with the State of Mississippi Department of Mental Health as a community-based social worker and later served as a social program instructor, medical quality assurance director, and as a patient advocate. Pace retired in 2013 after serving at four different state institutions spanning over 25 years.

Over the past three decades, Pace has volunteered for more than 40,000 hours of community service and has directly or indirectly raised more than $7 million for over 300 Mississippi charitable causes. He received the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Service Award (GIVE Award) for Outstanding Achievement in Community Building Initiatives. Pace was also awarded the President's Call to Service Award for Lifetime Achievement in Volunteer Service. He is the only current recipient of both the State of Mississippi and the United States' highest honors for a lifetime of service.

He currently serves as the community outreach specialist for Papa John's Pizza and helps to raise money for veterans, law enforcement officers, and children. Pace is also the founder of Team John Boy, a group that encourages volunteerism in the local community and giving in support of charities. He has one daughter, Brianna.

Barbara W. Fuller

Fuller is a 1967 graduate of Co-Lin where she was president of the Wesley Foundation on campus and received the Suzanne Boyd Christian Leadership Award. She was involved in the Dramatics and French Clubs, Future Teachers of America, and Young Women's Christian Association. She received a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in secondary education from the University of Southern Mississippi and did graduate work at USM and Mississippi College. She taught high school English for 44 years and retired from Simpson County Academy. The school named the building she taught in "The Barbara Fuller Building" honoring Fuller's 40 years at the school.

She was inducted into the Mississippi STAR Teacher Hall of Fame in 2012 for being selected Star Teacher 10 times. Fuller was recognized as the Simpson County Academy Teacher of the Year for three years and selected into Who's Who Among Teachers. She was twice named a William Winter Teacher Scholar and Statewide Vance Teacher Scholar, and recognized at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. She has been awarded numerous other professional recognitions.

Fuller is very active in Rials Creek United Methodist Church and serves as the secretary/treasurer of the Smith/Simpson Counties' cluster of 13 United Methodist churches. She is also president of the Rials Creek United Methodist Women's Organization, treasurer of the Action Adult Sunday School Class, and a member of the choir. She is a co-contributor with her sister, Kathy, to the Magee Courier county newspaper. For the past 15 years, she has written a community column "Rials Creek News" twice a month.

She and her husband, Jon, have been married for 48 years and have two sons, Scott and Jay. She also has six grandchildren.

The Copiah-Lincoln Community College Athletic Alumni Chapter inducted five members into its Sports Hall of Fame during their annual meeting at Homecoming on Oct. 27.

From left, Charles and Bobbie Funchess, Ryan Belanger, Emily Horne, Greg Briggs and Ron Hyatt.

Those honored were Ryan Belanger of Zachary, Louisiana, Greg Briggs of Houston, Texas, Carlos Funchess of Prairieville, Louisiana, Emily Horne of Dayton, Texas and the late Sherman "Adron" Hyatt of Hazlehurst.

Ryan Belanger

Ryan Belanger of Zachary, Louisiana is a 2005 graduate of Co-Lin where he was named All-State, NJCAA All-World Series and All-Region. He was a key member of the 2005 team that won state, regional, and super regional championships, and Belanger still holds the strikeout record for Co-Lin. After Co-Lin, he attended the University of Southern Mississippi where he played baseball and was named second-team All-Conference USA. Belanger majored in sports administration and minored in business.

Following his time at USM, Belanger committed to the Kansas City Royals Organization. He now works as an account manager at Nalco. Belanger and his wife Dana, a 2005 Co-Lin graduate and former standout basketball player, have one son, Ty.

Greg Briggs

Greg Briggs of Houston, Texas, is a 1989 graduate of Co-Lin where he played both basketball and football. He came to Co-Lin on a basketball scholarship, but later decided to try out for the football team, where he was a starting free safety and helped the team to a South Division championship. After Co-Lin, he played for the University of Arkansas and Texas Christian University where he received All-SWAC honors during his senior year.

Briggs spent six years in the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys, Chicago Bears and Minnesota Vikings where he played as a linebacker and on special teams. He is a two-time Super Bowl champion from his time with the Cowboys. Briggs also played for the Frankfurt Galaxy of the World League of American Football where he led his team in tackles and won the World Bowl in 1995.

Briggs and his wife Joy have three children, Jordon, Brandon and Tiffini.

Emily Horne

Emily Horne of Dayton, Texas is a 2006 graduate of Co-Lin where she was named All-Region, All-State and All-American in softball. Horne led the 2006 softball team to a third place finish in the NJCAA National Tournament and was named to the NJCAA All-Tournament Team. She still holds the pitching records at Co-Lin for ERA (0.72), opponent's batting average (0.155), career strike outs (366), single season wins (21 (twice)), and career wins (42).

After Co-Lin, Horne attended Arkansas Tech University on a softball scholarship and majored in history. She is the lead teacher at Berta Alyce Early Childhood Education Center and volunteers for Katie's Closet, providing used clothing for low income children. She has one son, Nathan.

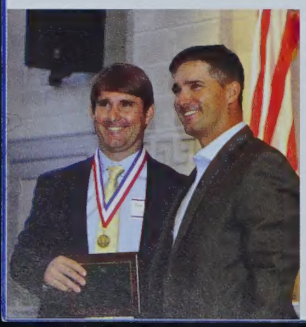
Carlos Funchess

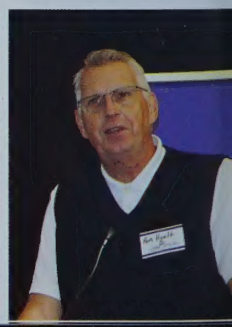
Carlos Funchess of Prairieville, Louisiana is a 1989 graduate of Co-Lin where he helped lead the Wolfpack basketball team to two state championships and a seventh-place finish at the National junior and Community College Association Tournament. Funchess also earned All-State accolades and played in the state All-Star Game.

After Co-Lin, he attended the University of Louisiana-Monroe where he was named first-team All-Southland Conference and led the Indians to two tournament titles and NCAA Tournament appearances. He was also named the SLC's Co-Most Valuable Player. During his senior year, Funchess won the 1991 College Slam Dunk Contest on ESPN. He received a bachelor's degree in Health and Human Performance in 1992.

Funchess played professionally for the Miami Heat, Global Basketball Association, Continental Basketball League in Sioux Falls and Rockford, and overseas in Caracas, Venezuela. He has been the women's assistant basketball coach at Southern University since 2005 and was named as the program's head coach in June 2018. Funchess and his wife Sondia have two daughters, Tynee and Chelsea.

(continued on page 5)





The Copiah-Lincoln Community College Alumni Association recently honored five outstanding faculty and staff members during the annual fall convocation on the Wesson campus. The group was also recognized during the alumni luncheon at Homecoming on Oct. 27.

From left, Missy Order, Donna Bales, Melnee Berry, Sharon Sanxton and Brian Turnage.

Those honored from the Wesson campus were Donna Bales, Melnee Berry, and Brian Turnage all of Brookhaven. Missy Orders of Mendenhall was recognized for the Simpson County Center, and Sharon Sanxton of Natchez was the Natchez Campus honoree.

Melnee Berry

Berry was honored as Outstanding Academic Instructor for the Wesson campus. She has been employed at Co-Lin since 2007, and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, a master's degree from Reformed Theological Seminary, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree from Nora Southeastern University. She is an instructor in the social science division, teaching psychology and sociology courses, and is a licensed professional counselor. She previously worked at Reformed Theological Seminary, and as a family and individual counselor in a local church. She has five children, Jacquelyn, Nathan, Jesse, Dannah, and Miriam, and five grandchildren.

Brian Turnage

Turnage was selected as Outstanding Career/Technical Instructor for the Wesson campus. He has been employed at Co-Lin since 2005, and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Electronic Engineering. He is an instructor in the Electronics Technology department and is a National Center of Construction Education and Research certified instructor. In his spare time, he freelances as a music and sound technician at various events and gatherings and is a member of Easthaven Baptist Church. He is married to Tricia Turnage and they have two children, Megan and Caleb.

Donna Bales

Bales was honored as Outstanding Staff member of the Year for the Wesson campus. She has been employed at Co-Lin since 2005. She serves as Learning Resources Assistant in the Evelyn Oswalt Library and is known to always go the extra mile to assist patrons and co-workers alike. Prior to Co-Lin, she worked as a library assistant at Mamie Martin Elementary School. She was also a recipient of the Howell Garner High Performance Award. She is an active member of Johnson Grove Church of Christ. She is married to Bruce Bales and has three adult children, Sarah Cain, Bethany Powell, and Joshua Bales, and four grandchildren, Wyatt, Myles, Bella Rae and Lucas.

Sharon Sanxton

Sanxton was selected as Outstanding Faculty/Staff Member for the Natchez campus. She has been employed at Co-Lin since 2011, and holds a bachelor's degree from Alcorn State University and a master's degree from Liberty University. She is the Director of Student Services at the Natchez campus and has previously worked as an Admissions Coordinator and Student Records Manager. She is a member of the Mississippi Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and was a recipient of the Co-Lin High Performance Award. She attends Rose Hill #2 Baptist Church in Fayette and is an active member of the Parent Teacher Student Organization. She has one son, Eric.

Missy Orders

Orders was honored as Outstanding faculty/staff member for the Simpson County Center. She has been employed at Co-Lin since 2005, and is a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi after attending both Co-Lin and Hinds Community College. She serves as the Secretary to the Vice President and previously taught at Simpson County Academy. She has been recognized as the HMHM Education Manager of the Year and has also received the Co-Lin High Performance Award. She is a member of Overflow Church in Magee. She is married to Tim Orders, and they have two children, Dane and Swayze, and one grandchild.

Sports Hall of Fame *continued from page 4*

Sherman "Adron" Hyatt

Sherman "Adron" Hyatt of Hazlehurst was a 1951 graduate of Co-Lin and was a two-time All-State selection in basketball.

Hyatt served in the United States Air Force for 25 years, received the rank of Senior Master Sergeant and served one tour in Vietnam as a squadron leader at MACV, Saigon. He received multiple commendations and medals of service. During his basketball athletic career with the military, Hyatt earned the Most Valuable Player award at the London Invitational and was named to the All-Unicom team four times. He played and coached numerous Air Force base teams for more than 20 years.

Hyatt served on the Board of Deacons for First Assembly of God in Prattville, Alabama and Brookhaven, Mississippi for over 20 years. He also served as a purchasing agent for Copiah County for 15 years.

Hyatt and his wife Joan were married for 57 years, had two children, Sharon Armstrong and Ron Hyatt, and two grandchildren. He passed away in 2009.

The Band and Colette chapter of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Alumni Association inducted Rebecca "Becky" Nix of Meadville into its Hall of Fame and honored Jonathan Giangrosso of Mt. Olive as the Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni recipient during Homecoming festivities on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Hall of Fame and Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Jonathan Giangrosso
STANLEY STEWART OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUM

Jonathan Giangrosso of Mt. Olive graduated from Co-Lin's RN nursing program in 2007, received an Associate of Arts in 2008, and earned an Emergency Medical Technician certificate in 2009. He was a member of the Blue Wave Show Band, the basketball pep band, the symphonic band, and ran soundboard for the jazz band. He was also president of the band in 2006 and a member of the Baptist Student Union and Alpha Omega Science Club. Giangrosso received a bachelor of science in nursing from William Carey University, where he was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society and Upsilon Theta of Sigma Theta Tau international honor society of nursing. He is currently enrolled at the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing and is working on a masters of nursing as a family nurse practitioner.

Giangrosso serves as a traveling emergency room nurse and has been worked in Utah, California, Texas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Vermont, and Hawaii. When not on a travel assignment, he works at the Magee General Hospital emergency room. He is a member of Harrisville Baptist Church and has volunteered as a medical team leader on multiple medical mission trips to Honduras with Country Woods Baptist Church.

Rebecca "Becky" Nix
HALL OF FAME

Becky Nix is a 1955 graduate of Co-Lin where she studied business education and accounting. While at Co-Lin, Nix was a Colette, a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and was active in the Baptist Student Union.

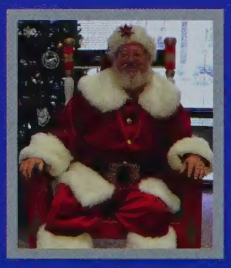
Over her career, she has served as secretary to the Mississippi Supervisor of Special Education, as a mathematics teacher, a ministry assistant, an executive secretary, a real estate agent, and as a ministry assistant to the United Methodist Church district superintendent in Roanoke, Alabama. Nix was also a stay-at-home mother before each of her children entered school.

Nix is very involved in the community and is an active member of Meadville Baptist Church where she sings in the choir and participates in the church's Women on Missions group. She is also involved in the local Lions Club where she has previously served as president and has received the Outstanding Lion Award, James A. Torrey Outstanding Service Award, and the Melvin Jones Fellow Award. Nix has chaired the Arts Committee, served on the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, participated in the Pine Burr Garden Club, and served on the Board of Directors for the Franklin County Museum.

Nix is a charter and lifetime member of the Co-Lin Band and Colette Alumni Chapter. She served as president of the chapter in 2013-2014 after working as vice president for the two years prior. She is married to James Nix, whom she met while at Co-Lin. They have been married for 63 years and have three children, seven grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

Alumni Spotlight

Larry Russell ('78) is the pastor of Montgomery Baptist Church. He received an associate's degree from Co-Lin and graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in Business Administration. His wife Belinda ('80) also graduated from Co-Lin. For the past 10 years, Russell has played the role of Santa Claus, traveling all over Mississippi and occasionally Louisiana or Tennessee during the Christmas season. This year, he made a special visit to Co-Lin's campus and held story time in the Oswalt Library with the preschool students.



Band and Colette Alumni Chapter Plans 8th Annual Princess Ball

The Band and Colette Alumni Chapter is sponsoring their eight annual "Princess Ball" for fathers and daughters on Feb. 9 at the Thames Center on the Wesson Campus.

The ball is open to fathers, grandfathers and father figures and girls ages 4-15. The event will be separated into two sessions, the first from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and the second from 8-10 p.m. Girls of any age can come to either session. Tickets to the event are $30 per couple and $10 for each additional child. The cost of the ticket includes refreshments and ballroom dance instruction. Dress for the event is formal, and photography will be available for an additional fee. Tickets may be purchased online at www.colin.edu.

Proceeds from the event fund the Clyde Wilson scholarship for band and Colette students. For more information, contact Mark Hamilton at 601.835.6607 or contact the alumni office at 601.643.8313.

The Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration

Cinema: Women of the Struggle: Facing Fear in the Civil Rights Era

Anne Butler on Deep Roots

James Pate on French Louisiana and Pickett's History of the Region

Gene Dattel on Growing up Jewish in the Delta

Pamela Arceneaux, Historic New Orleans Collection, on The Storyville Guidebooks

The Great River Road

February 21, 22, and 23, 2019

Michael W. Twitty, James Beard Award Winner, on Foodways of the River Road

Beth Ann Fennelly, Poet Laureate of Mississippi on Poetry and the Literary Arts

Tom Franklin, NYT Bestselling Author on Fiction Writing and *The Tilted World*

Dr. Karen Cox, Historian, on The Rhythm Night Club

HOMECOMING 2018

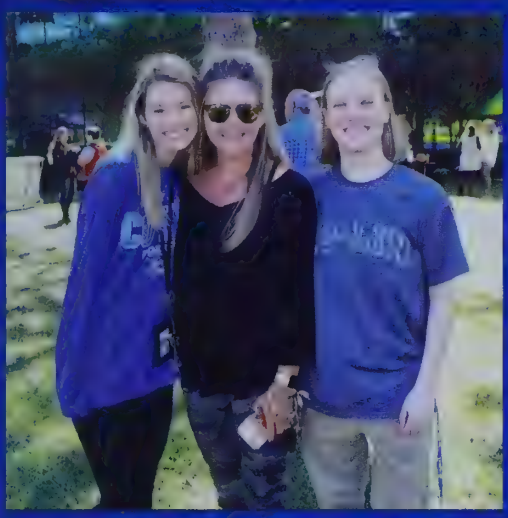
Winners of the Homecoming golf tournament hosted by the Co-Lin golf team were from left: Dr. Ryan Case, Stephen Bozeman, and Chuck Holloway (not pictured)

Winners of the Big Wolf 5K were from left: Joe Elliot, Samantha Mahlock, Brian Norwood, and Ainsley Orr

Homecoming 2018 was another great weekend that once again proved Co-Lin will always be "The Place To Be." With perfect weather all weekend long, many alumni, friends, and family returned to campus to enjoy the Homecoming activities. The weekend kicked off on Friday with the annual golf tournament, sponsored by the Co-Lin golf team, where we had a record number of teams participate. Later that evening, the president's reception was held in the Evelyn Oswalt Library, which showed off the brand new furniture now in the library. This year's honored guests were former Phi Beta Lambda members. Saturday's events once again began with the Big Wolf Homecoming 5K, followed by the induction of five new members into Co-Lin's Sports Hall of Fame. Members of the 2018 class are Ryan Belanger, Greg Briggs, Emily Horne, Carlos Funchess, and the late Sherman "Adron" Hyatt. The Band and Colette Alumni Chapter inducted Rebecca "Becky" Nix into its Hall of Fame and recognized Jonathan Giangrosso as the recipient of the Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

More than 200 alumni and friends attended the Alumni Association's annual awards luncheon where the Association honored John W. Pace and Barbara Welch Fuller as the 2018 Alumni of the Year. Following the luncheon, alumni and friends gathered under the tents in the center of campus while children enjoyed food, games, bounce houses and more during the annual tailgate party. The tailgate featured entertainment by the Sojourners and a pep rally by the Blue Wave Show Band and cheerleaders. Stone Stadium was filled with fans to support Homecoming Queen Taylor Berch and her court to cheer on the Wolf Pack to a victory in the football game against Southwest Mississippi Community College.

GLCC



PBL members from left: Madison Franklin, Britney Clark, Bradley Lawrence, Austin Hunt, and Ke'Marcus Brown.

Past and present PBL advisors from left: Heather Martin, Richard Baker, Jean Ricks, Mike McIntyre, and Eddie Britt.

Members of the Class of 1968 received golden anniversary pins at the Homecoming luncheon. Those in attendance were from left: Dr. Ken Walley, Janice Dear, Betty Johnson, James Dykes, and Albert Berch.

Members of the Class of 1964 from left: Eleanor Barry Burge, Glenda Anderson Morgan, Howard Brister, Jerry Bailey, and Roscoe Ivy.

Members of the Class of 1948 from left: Thurman Allred, Kate Minton, Alton Ricks, Mary Dumas Henderson, and Catherine McManus Kellogg.

Members of the Class of 1958 and guests from left: James Cagle, Ann Burris Cagle, Bettye Boutwell, Curtis McMillan, Troy Greer, James Nations, and Lee Nations Morgan.

Homecoming Court

Natchez Maids

Wesson Maids

Simpson Maids

Coaches and players from the 2008 Softball Team were recognized on the field during the game. From left: Allen Kent, Johnny Williams, Meleah Howard, Ashley Jones, Britnee Smith, Ashley Newell, Devon Winborne, and Amber Bowman.

The Blue Wave Show Band, Colettes, and cheerleaders held a pep rally at the tailgate party before the Homecoming game.

Foundation Board Welcomes New Member Bill Sones

the place to be, the place to give

Bill Sones of Brookhaven was recently elected to serve on the Co-Lin Foundation Board. Sones graduated from Mississippi College where he was recognized as alumnus of the year and has served as chairman of the Board of Trustees. Sones has been a banker for 45 years and is the founder and chairman of Bank of Brookhaven. He has served as chairman of the Mississippi Bankers Association and chairman of the Independent Community of Bankers of America.

Sones is a past chairman of the Mississippi Economic Council and Mississippi Home Corporation. He is currently chairman of the Mississippi Development Bank and the Mississippi Business Finance Corporation. He has served as president of the Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce and Morton Chamber of Commerce. He is a past chairman of the Brookhaven/Lincoln County Industrial Development Foundation and United Way. He has been awarded the Soap Box Award by the local chamber and named volunteer of the year by the Mississippi Economic Development Council.

He is currently chairman of the Mississippi School of the Arts Foundation and the Lincoln County Civic Center Foundation, and has been a long time trustee of King's Daughters Medical Center.

Sones has been married to his wife, Theresa, for 46 years. They have five married children and 20 grandchildren. They are active in First Baptist Church Brookhaven where they both teach Sunday school and Sones is a life deacon.

YOU can make a difference for Co-Lin!

Gifts from alumni and friends like you make a difference in the lives of students.

Consider supporting your college with a gift today!

Please don't wait. Do it now.

CO-LIN

"For generations, students have benefitted from the generosity of the Co-Lin Foundation. Giving will continue to insure these benefits for the generations to come. Please do your part today."

- Andrew Calvit ('76)
Co-Lin Foundation Board President

Yes! *I want to support Co-Lin*

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Phone: _____

Email: _____

#BackThePack

Enclosed is my gift of $_____ payable to Co-Lin Foundation
If you work for a matching gift company, which one?

_____

Please use my gift for:

- ❑ Where it is most needed
- ❑ Add my gift to _____ Scholarship fund
- ❑ Other _____ (designate a sport, program or need)

The Co-Lin Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent of IRS regulations.

Co-Lin Foundation, P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191

TELL US YOUR STORY, WOLF PACK!

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR CAREER, AND YOUR ADVENTURES!

SEND US A BRIEF UPDATE, INCLUDING THE YEARS YOU ATTENDED CO-LIN AND ANY CERTIFICATES OR DEGREES YOU EARNED. DID YOU CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION AFTER CO-LIN? HAVE YOU RECEIVED A RECOGNITION OR HAD A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE?

SHARE YOUR STORY TO ANNA.GRIDER@COLIN.EDU
WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!
PLEASE INCLUDE AN UPDATED PHOTO.

Save the Date

for our
Golf Tournaments

WESSON GOLF CLASSIC
THURSDAY, MAY 16TH

NATCHEZ GOLF CLASSIC
THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH

Alumni Spotlight

Brandon "Buddy" Baker ('04) is co-owner of LaRue's Drugs in Brookhaven. Baker received an associate's degree from Co-Lin, where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Beta Lambda. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in real estate from the University of Mississippi and a master's degree in business administration from Mississippi College. Baker also received a bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical sciences and doctorate of pharmacy, both from the University of Mississippi. He is a member of Krewe of Ceres and has two sons, JB (8) and William (5).

BACK THE PACK:

Co-Lin Athletics has announced the first strategic plan in its history, a comprehensive, three-year set of goals that seek to advance the program by fostering student-athlete formation, strengthening competitive excellence, increasing external engagement, and enhancing facilities.

The strategic plan will be supported by a $5.2 million capital campaign – also the first in program history – called Back The Pack: The Campaign for Co-Lin Athletic Facilities.

Co-Lin president Dr. Jane G. Hulon announced the plan on November 1 at the monthly meeting of the Co-Lin Board of Trustees.

"The time is now," said Dr. Hulon. "If we want to take Co-Lin Athletics to even greater heights, then we need to build on the success of our programs and get the buy-in of our alumni, parents, former athletes, and corporate partners to support our efforts."

"We can't succeed by resting on our laurels," said Dr. Hulon. "We need to consistently look for ways to make Co-Lin more attractive to student-athletes, coaches, and fans so we can achieve competitive excellence. That includes building and renovating facilities and providing the support services needed to make the student-athlete experience as successful as possible both in and out of the classroom."

The strategic plan calls for enhancing facilities at H.L. "Hook" Stone Stadium to address the needs of Co-Lin's football program; renovating Graydon Mullen Gymnasium for men's and women's basketball programs; adding additional space for player development for baseball at Sullivan Field and softball at Lady Wolves Field; and relocating and renovating the tennis courts to one centralized location.

"All of this will involve major fundraising, and we plan to be more aggressive than ever before to address these important needs through the Back The Pack campaign," said Dr. Hulon.

Lastly, the plan aims to increase external engagement among fans by enhancing the game-day experience for all athletic events: increasing the promotion of Co-Lin Athletics through social media, and creating new, innovative platforms to promote the Co-Lin Athletics brand.

A Comprehensive Athletic Upgrade Capital Campaign

"We want our fans and our players, as well as our band and cheerleaders, to compete in an exciting environment," said Dr. Hulon. "We want our student-athletes to have every opportunity to succeed. Academic success is vital to the student-athlete experience at Co-Lin, and our commitment to students both on the field and in the classroom will help expand their opportunities after graduation."

Hulon said these four strategic priorities, compiled with an aggressive push for donations from alumni, parents, former athletes, corporate partners, and other members of the Co-Lin community, provide a clear vision for the future that will help ensure the success of Co-Lin Athletics.

"We plan to build on Co-Lin's rich athletic tradition, which includes 58 MACJC State Championships, 24 NJCAA Region 23/District D Championships, and 15 NJCAA National Tournament/Bowl Appearances," said Dr. Hulon.

"Back The Pack underscores the fact that to be a Co-Lin student-athlete, you must perform at the highest levels- athletically and academically. The campaign calls on us to support these young people fully, whatever and whenever they compete, and as they prepare for life beyond Co-Lin. To do anything less would not be who we are."

Donations to the Back The Pack campaign can be mailed to P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191, or made online at colin.edu/alumni-foundation. For information about the Back The Pack campaign, contact Angela Furr, Interim Director of the Co-Lin Foundation at 601.643.8332.

CO-LIN WELCOMES NEW GOLF PRO *Bradley Boykin*

Bradley Boykin ('10) was named as director of golf operations at Wolf Hollow. He is responsible for functional management of the course and practice areas, management of the Alton Greenlee Golf Clubhouse, and coordination of golf activities.

"To come back and work for your alma mater is very special," said Boykin. "It was an opportunity that I couldn't turn down."

Boykin was heavily involved on campus as a student. He was a member of the yearbook staff, president of the Trailblazers, and was named Mr. Co-Lin. Boykin played on the Co-Lin golf team from 2008 to 2010 where he was a member of the 2009 MACJC DII State Championship team.

"My two years at Co-Lin were very important to me," Boykin said. "To be involved with this institution is something that I'm very excited about."

After Co-Lin, Boykin continued his education at Mississippi State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in business/marketing. He also has experience in all realms of golf operations including stents in maintenance at Okatoma Golf Course, sales at the Mississippi State University Golf Course, and general management and course superintendent at Demopolis Country Club in Demopolis, Ala.

"I want to take what's already there and continue to improve it," said Boykin. "I'm thrilled to be back and I'm looking forward to making Wolf Hollow a premier golf course in Southwest Mississippi."

Wolf Hollow is opened daily from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information on the course, prices, or to schedule tee times, please call 601.643.8379.

FOUNDATION NEWS | *Nathan Steele Scholarship Endowed*

Nathan Steele

The Nathan Steele EMT/Paramedic Scholarship was recently endowed with the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation.

Nathan's father, David Steele of Meadville, and Tyler Blalock with Rural Rapid Response Ambulance Service in Meadville launched the Nathan Steele Foundation several years ago in memory of Nathan. The scholarship was created in honor of Nathan Alan Steele to carry on his dream of providing rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to Southwest Mississippi. This scholarship will provide funds for the training of EMS personnel to improve rural health care through educational opportunities.

"In order for us to succeed, you all need to succeed," said Blalock, who first met Steele working on an ambulance in 2004. He added, "It's like he's still with us as long as this is going on."

Nathan Steele was born in 1980 in Brookhaven. He graduated from Franklin County High School and attended Co-Lin from the fall of 1999 to the spring of 2001 to become a machinist. Starting in 1998, Steele served as a volunteer fire fighter in Franklin County's District Five Fire Department. During this time, he became a first responder and developed an interest in EMS that continued to grow.

In 2003, he transitioned from volunteer to a full-time career in EMS. He strove to improve and facilitate the training of EMS professionals. In 2010, Nathan collaborated to create Rural Rapid Response, an ambulance company specializing in rural EMS. He accomplished this feat while battling colon cancer, which he was diagnosed with in 2009.

Despite his struggles, Steele never lost sight of the importance of EMS to the patients and professionals until the time of his death in 2014. "He would go to a first responder call before he'd go to the doctor," said Steele of his son's commitment to providing quality care to others.

Contributions to this, or any other Co-Lin scholarship, can be mailed to the Foundation at P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191, or online at www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation/give-now/.

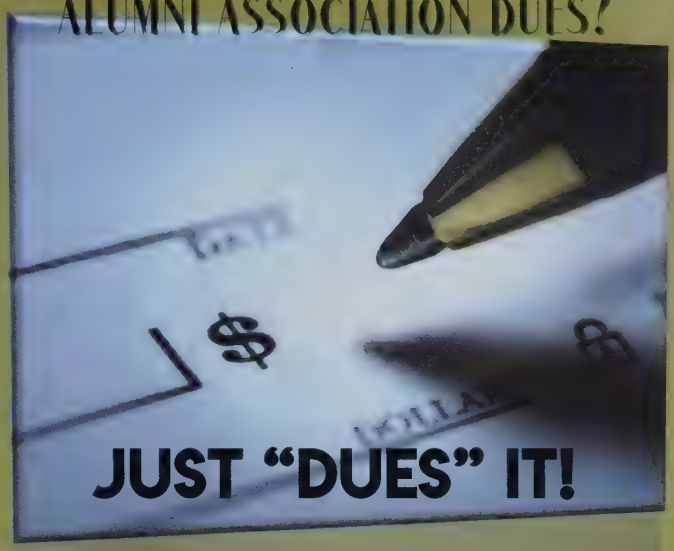
Tyler Blalock, Angela Furr and David Steele

the Colinian is changing!

In order for us to continue improving publications and mailings, starting fall 2019 all Colinians (Spring/Summer & Fall/Winter editions) will ONLY be mailed to Alumni Association dues payers and lifetime members.

So be sure to pay your dues and stay up-to-date on all that's happening at *"The Place to Be!"*

Haven't paid your Co-Lin Alumni Association dues?



JUST "DUES" IT!

Alumni dues help publish the Colinian, fund alumni activities, Homecoming and other events. Please consider investing today!

I want to be a part of Co-Lin Alumni!

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- ❑ **Joint Membership ($40)**
- ❑ **Lifetime Membership ($250)**

Amount Enclosed $_____

Payable to Co-Lin Alumni Association

Please mail to;
Co-Lin Alumni Association
P.O. Box 649,
Wesson, MS 39191

(Visit www.colin.edu alumni website to pay by credit card)

COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Everything's

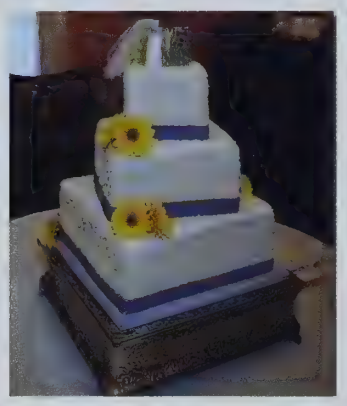
by Anna Grider

Cake decorating has always been a family affair for Co-Lin alum Rose Atwater, who also happens to be a wife, mother and homeschooler of six, and big-time blogger. Receiving her first Wilton cake decorating kit for Christmas at the age of 13, Atwater dreamed of one day owning her own bakery. Little did she know that her baking dreams would one day lead her to owning Rose Bakes LLC and running a blog, RoseBakes.com, that brings in more than 4 million viewers each year.

Atwater came to Co-Lin in 1993 where she was a member of the choir, art club and Phi Theta Kappa. She graduated with honors in 1995 with a major in mathematics and a minor in art. While at Co-Lin, she met her husband Richy and the two married and moved to Idaho in 1996. A few years and a few moves later, the Atwaters returned to Mississippi and Atwater went back to college. She graduated from Mississippi University for Women with a degree in mathematics in 2001.

"White Bull" cake

During this time, Atwater was passionate about being a stay-at-home mom and homeschooling their six children. Simultaneously, she still had dreams of owning her own business and wanted to work to help supplement her family's income and pursued jobs that she could do from home. Over the years Atwater was a private math tutor, daycare provider, caterer, mystery shopper, and more. Eventually, through her never-ending search for at-home jobs, Atwater was inspired to start a blog. Around the same time of starting her first blog, she was asked to make a groom's cake for her brother's wedding.



First wedding cake

While she had made the occasional cake for family members, church functions, etc., Atwater admits she was "never very good" and didn't pursue many opportunities to bake much more. At her brother's insistence, Atwater found herself committed to making a groom's cake. Inspired by his nickname "White Bull," Atwater's first cake was just that – a white bull.

Not long after, in 2009, Atwater's second brother got engaged and she was once again approached to make a cake. This time around, though, she was asked not only for the groom's cake, but also the wedding cake. While it took much more convincing, Atwater agreed and immediately began making as many practice cakes as possible. Those "practice cakes" quickly turned into real orders and within six months, Atwater had already decorated 20 cakes.

As she continued to prepare for the big day, Atwater stalked the internet for information on how to stack cakes, the best recipes for tiered cakes, how to cover cakes in fondant, and more, learning by trial and error along the way. All the research and practice work paid off and Atwater made her first three-tier wedding cake in 2010.

At this point, Atwater had somewhat unknowingly stumbled into her "accidental cake business," and her frustration with finding easy to access baking and cake decorating information online ultimately led to the creation of her blog, Rose Bakes. As Atwater describes it, "I had dreamed of cake decorating since I was a young girl and my current business is sort of

Coming up Roses

a happy accident. I believe it was always in God's plan for me to do what I'm doing – it just took me a while to get there."

As her cake business took off, Atwater began sharing photos, details of how some cakes were created, recipes and tutorials, and the rest is history. In 2012, Rose Bakes was officially born and has only grown in its success since. Her blog is dedicated to letting readers get to know her family, her work, and how to achieve it all on their own. Using her own experiences from the days when she "knew nothing about pricing and truly was just grateful for the practice" and "was pretty much giving them away," Atwater's blog also helps aspiring bakers and decorators learn how to create their own successful business.

By 2015, Atwater had decorated more than 1200 cakes and has been recognized for her work in multiple publications. Most notably, her cake was published on the cover of American Cake Decorating magazine, which is the largest cake decorating publication in the United States.

Nowadays, Atwater is focusing her time on blogging, growing her online business, helping other cake decorators and business owners, along with some charity work. Despite the nerve pain and damage in her hands from years of decorating, Atwater still takes a few orders each month because she is truly passionate about what she does.

These days though, it's certainly more of a family affair than ever before. To make things easier on herself and to help teach her children about business, they all work for her. Atwater's daughter makes all of her cake batter, does some baking, and helps decorate cakes and her sons make frosting, cookie dough, and get paid to clean up after all of the messes are done being made. Her oldest two sons make some of the deliveries and her husband even makes all of the homemade marshmallow fondant.

As a cake/food blogger, Atwater truly has to be a 'jack of all trades.' She is a writer, photographer, videographer, editor, coder, marketer, advertiser, brand manager, bookkeeper, and accountant. On top of all of that, she is always decorating cakes and developing recipes to provide content for the blog. She dreams of doing more video work for her blog, writing a book, and teaching cake classes, along with starting a Christmas tree farm on their property as a family.

To follow Rose, visit her blog www.rosebakes.com, or follow her on Facebook @RoseBakes.

Congratulations

Wallace

Garrett Wallace ('13) graduated on May 5, 2018 with a Doctorate Degree in Physical Therapy.

Jessica Bueto Breazeale ('03) was named Director of Public Affairs at Georgia Pacific.

Breazeale

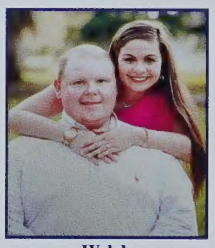
Kayla Williams ('03) recently joined the staff at Bank of Franklin in new accounts and marketing.

Cindy Hyde-Smith ('79) on being elected to the US Senate as a representative for Mississippi

Durr

Joseph Durr ('97) on being elected Chancery Court Judge for Copiah & Lincoln Counties

Wedding Bells


Welch

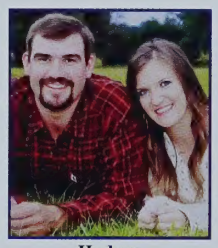
Wallace

Katelyn Bridges ('18) married **Colton Welch** ('16) on September 22, 2018.

Taylor Elise Dixon ('18) married Jon Ross Williams on September 8, 2018.

Kaitlin Doty ('13) married **Garrett Wallace** ('13) on May 26, 2018.

Rials


Hudson

Jake Rials ('16) married **Abby Burke** (attended) on September 1, 2018.

Joshua Ryan Dunn ('13) married Kelsey Elizabeth Martin on November 10, 2018.

Cupit

Allison Lynley Tate ('13) married **Spencer Dylan Hudson** ('12) on November 17, 2018.

Anna Elise Whittington ('16) married William Payton Cupit on December 29, 2018.

Jenna Dickerson ('08) married Jonathan Selman on December

In Memoriam

Pascal Dyer Patton ('63) passed away on April 16, 2018.

Elizabeth Carney Hall ('48) passed away on June 3, 2018.

Mary Louise Bunn (attended) passed away on July 22, 2018.

Marilyn Ruth Burney Thomspon ('48) passed away October on 14, 2018.

Dykes

Willie Lee Culver ('90) passed away on September 22, 2018.

Elven R. Dykes Jr. ('64) passed away on September 19, 2018.

Tacha Lanett McGrew Shoemake (attended) passed away on October 8, 2018.

Shoemake

Donald Emmett "Don" Rutledge (attended) passed away on October 9, 2018.

Mary Elizabeth Willingham Ratcliff (attended) passed away on November 9, 2018.

Spencer Foster Allen ('05) passed away on November 1, 2018. He was a Taylor Presidential Scholar and the son of Foundation board member Woody Allen.

Moak

Vander LaPatrick Morris ('97) passed away on September 22, 2018.

Cpl. Zach Moak ('08), a Brookhaven Police Officer, was killed in the line of duty on September 29, 2018.

Annette Brent ('61) passed away on October 15, 2018.

Wood

Charles "Charlie" Hart ('63) passed away on December 22, 2018.

Wade Alexander ('85) passed away on December 11, 2018.

Ben Burney ('48) passed away on January 1, 2019.

Wallace Wayne Wood ('52) passed away on January 4, 2019.

Wedding Bells

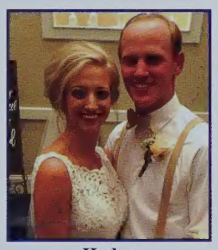
15, 2018. Jenna is a Hardware Support Technician at Co-Lin.

Selman

Allyson Steele (attending) married **Jacob Jordon** (attending) on December 15, 2018.

Jordan

Rainee Luper ('18) married **Bailey Hodge** ('14) on December 29, 2018.


Hodge

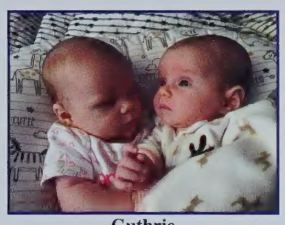
Olivia Ross ('18) married **Ben Goff** ('11) on November 17, 2018.

Goff

Jessica Dixon ('16) married Drew McNichols on October 20, 2018.

Caylee Smith ('16) married Ryan Randall on April 21, 2018.

New Arrivals


Guthrie

Jason Guthrie and **Sarah** are proud parents of twin girls, Edie Elizabeth Guthrie and Harper Scott Guthrie, born October 22, 2018. Jason is an assistant football coach at Co-Lin.

Martin

Abbie Newell Martin ('15) and Chase Martin are proud parents of Lawson Chase Martin, born November 9, 2018.

Carter

Kayla Renee Carter ('15) and **Graham Carter** ('17) are proud parents of Patterson Paul Carter, born December 4, 2018.

Ballard

Sam ('13) and **Brooke Wilson Ballard** ('12) are proud parents of Brenley Rae Ballard, born December 20, 2018.

Langham

Joseph ('07) and **Lauren Smith Langham** ('07) are proud parents of Janie Claire Langham, born April 18, 2018.

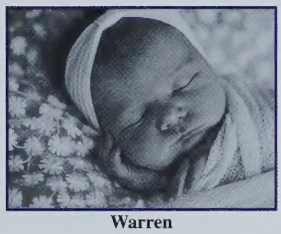
Cunnington

Cody ('06) and **Margaret Cunningham** ('08) are proud parents of Levi Thomas Cunningham, born October 12, 2018.

Will and **Haley Shedd Thibodeaux** ('15) are proud parents of Finn Robert Thibodeaux, born October 4, 2018.

Hough

Trey and **Brandi Ivrin Hough** ('05) are proud parents of Logan Irvin Hough, born August 23, 2018.


Warren

Peyton ('07) and **Brittney Newman Warren** ('12) are proud parents of Allie Peyton Warren, born November 26, 2018.

Send your alumni news and photos to Anna Grider, PO Box 649 Wesson, MS 39191 or e-mail to anna.grider@colin.edu. Please provide class year(s) and a phone number for verification.

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"I am so grateful to the Foundation for awarding me the Taylor Presidential Scholarship. Your generosity has allowed me to focus on my education and campus involvement, while leading me one step closer to my goal of pursuing a degree in accounting." – Freshman Caroline Pace of Brookhaven

Your support makes a difference.

CO-LIN
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Learn how you can contribute to the Foundation's Annual Fund at www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation.